



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
17 March 2017

Original: English

**General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council
Seventy-second year**

**Identical letters dated 10 March 2017 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to attach herewith a statement released by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine in which it condemns the law passed by Israel's Knesset to ban the Muslim call to prayer (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations



**Annex to the identical letters dated 10 March 2017 from the
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President
of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Lack of international accountability has
encouraged the occupiers to enact the racist "Muezzin Law"**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns in the strongest possible terms the Israeli Knesset's approval on first reading of what has become known as the "Muezzin Law". It is yet another instance of the racist legislation that the ruling right in Israel is falling over itself to enact daily with the goal of reinforcing the occupation, gradually imposing Israeli law on Occupied Palestinian Territory and further entrenching its despicable apartheid policy as part of a single-State solution. The law's approval comes as part of the ongoing competition among right-wing factions to appease their extremist settler constituencies. It constitutes a further provocation of Palestinians that will promote enmity and hatred between followers of the divinely revealed religions in Palestine instead of a culture of tolerance and peace.

The Ministry believes that being content with issuing purely formal protests against the law without any practical deterrent measures has emboldened the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu to move ahead with legislative procedures to pass this law in particular, and to push ahead in general with institutionalizing its despicable apartheid regime in Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Ministry calls on the international community and the relevant United Nations agencies to urgently intervene to prevent passage of this law and to guarantee freedom of worship and access to holy places in Palestine. Holding Israel accountable and imposing sanctions for its racist legislation and major human rights violations is the only way to deter the occupation and compel compliance with internationally recognized resolutions.

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Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
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and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to attach herewith a statement released by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine on the expansion of the illegal settlements activities of Israel, which constitute an obstacle to the efforts of the envoy of the United States, Mr. Greenblatt (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations



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Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the
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of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

[Original: Arabic]

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs: heightened settlement activity is an Israeli attempt
to obstruct the visit of the American envoy Jason Greenblatt**

The Government of Israel, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, continues to implement its settlement plans, which are aimed at swallowing up more Palestinian land. It has been revealed that the occupiers have taken measures and engaged in wide-scale land levelling activity in preparation for the construction of thousands of new residential units in occupied Jerusalem and its environs, particularly in Sha'fat, Bayt Jala, Waljah and other locations. They have also begun building wide roads for settlers on Palestinian land in order to link West Bank settlements with one another and with Israel itself.

The Ministry condemns in the strongest terms possible the ongoing settlement and Judaization activities being carried out by the occupiers. The primary aim of Netanyahu's extremist settlement policy is to put an end to the two-State solution and to close the door completely on any possibility of establishing a viable, geographically contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine that exists alongside Israel. The Ministry affirms that this escalation in settlement activity is an attempt to pre-empt and obstruct American and international efforts to revive negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, particularly the important forthcoming visit to the region by the American envoy, Jason Greenblatt.

The Ministry calls on the international community to shoulder its legal and political responsibilities, and calls on it to rapidly take political action in order to preserve the chance of achieving peace based on the two-State solution.